

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 OMB-01 /083 W
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R 250250Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8173
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0870

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP PFOR LA US
SUBJECT: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY CALLS ON LPDR
SECSTATE NOUPHAN SITHPASAY

SUMMARY: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EA) OAKLEY PAID
A FIFTY MINUTE CALL ON LPDR SECSTATE NOUPHAN SITHPASAY
DURING WHICH NOUPHAN EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS
WITH UNITED STATES, CONCERN ABOUT ALLEGED THAI HOSTILE
INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO LAOS AND HOPE FOR U.S. ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE. HE SAID SEARCH FOR MIA INFORMATION WAS BEING
ENERGETICALLY PURSUED. HE SUGGESTED LPDR COULD BE A
BETTER FRIEND TO U.S. THAN PRECEDING REGIME AND THAT LAO
CLANDESTINE OPPOSITION HAD NO REAL PROSPECTS OF
OVERTURNING NEW REGIME. OAKLEY NOTED U.S. HAD NO
HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARDS ANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS,
REITERATED THAT U.S. HAD NO INTENTION REESTABLISH U.S.
MILITARY PRESENCE IN OR AUGMENT GRANT MILITARY AID TO
THAILAND, RECALLED THAT

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NO AID PROMISES COULD BE MADE IN LIGHT OF CURRENT U.S.
LEGISLATION AND COUNSELED PATIENCE AND REALISM IN REGARD
TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER RELATIONS WHICH NEW U.S.
ADMINISTRATION DESIRED AND WAS WORKING TOWARD.
END SUMMARY

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARRIVED AT THADEUA ON

LAO SIDE OF MEKONG FERRY AT 1100 MAY 24 AND WAS
WELCOMED BY LAO PROTOC
OFFICER WHO EXPEDITED
IMMIGRATION/CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.

2. AT 1500 NOUPHAN SITHPASAY RECEIVED OAKLEY AND ME
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR COURTESY CALL WHICH LASTED
FIFTY MINUTES. ACTING HEAD OF PACIFIC AND WESTERN
AFFAIRS SECTION KHAMPHONE BOUTSAVATH (SECRETARY OF LAO
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN 1950'S) WAS ALSO PRESENT.
NOUPHAN MADE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS.

A. LPDR WELCOMED OAKLEY, RECALLED WOODCOCK
COMMISSION VISIT AND 1976 VISIT OF SENATOR MANSFIELD
AND DESIRED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE
SAID SEARCH FOR MIA INFORMATION THIS BEING ENERGETICALLY

PURSUED AND THAT HE HOPED SOME INFORMATION WOULD BE
FORTHCOMING. OAKLEY EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION OF THIS.

B. LPDR WAS INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND
WONDERED IF ANYTHING HAD BEEN DONE ALONG LINES OF
SENATOR MANSFIELD'S SUGGESTION THAT HUMANITARIAN AID
MIGHT BE CHANNLED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS. OAKLEY CITED WORLD BANK AND ADB AND ESCAP
ACTIVITIES TO WHICH WE CONTRIBUTED AND NOTED WE HAD
UNDERTAKEN TO INCREASE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF BY
TWENTY FIVE PERCENT. DIRECT ASSISTANCE IS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER
PRESENT LAWS. HE ADDED U.S. DESIRED TO HELP
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF PATIENCE AND REALISM IN THIS REGARD
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WHERE LAOS AND VIETNAM ARE CONCERNED. MEANWHILE WE
AVOID PROMISES THAT COULD NOT BE KEPT.

C. THAI COMMITTED PROVOCATIONS ALONG THE BORDER
AND THIS MADE LPDR CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND WHICH INCREASED THAI CAPACITY
TO THREATEN LAO. OAKLEY SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT
THERE IS NO HOSTILE THAI INTENT TOWARD LAOS AND NOTED
THAI HAD SIMILAR COMPLAINTS AND SUSPICIONS ABOUT INCURSIONS
FROM LAOS AND ABOUT VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE HERE.
HE POINTED OUT THAT U.S. GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
THAILAND WAS ENDING, THAT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WAS
NOT GOING TO BE REINTRODUCED AND THAT SMALL MAAG AND
OCCASIONAL SHIP VISITS PRESENTED NO THREAT. U.S. NOT
SUPPORTING ANY HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST LAOS OR VIETNAM.
OAKLEY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN SE ASIA
STATES SUCH AS THAILAND AND LAOS IN CONTEXTS LIKE
ESCAP MEETING WHICH NOUPHAN HAD ATTENDED COULD HELP IN
KEEPING BORDER INCIDENTS UNDER CONTROL. OLD SUSPICIONS
LINGERED ON BUT SHOULD BE DISSIPATED IN ORDER TO

STABILIZE AREA.

D. U.S. HAD GIVEN MUCH ASSISTANCE TO THE OLD REGIME IN LAOS. IT WAS TOO BAD THIS HAD STOPPED BECAUSE THE NEW LAOS COULD BE A BETTER FRIEND TO THE U.S. THAN THE OLD LAOS HAD BEEN. THE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WERE WEAK AND HAD NO CHANCE OF OVERTHROWING THE NEW REGIME. OAKLEY NOTED THAT GOVERNMENTS WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THEIR PEOPLE COULD NOT SURVIVE, NOTED THE STRONG SUPPORT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICIES ENJOYING FROM U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESS AND MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS THEREFORE HAD AMONG CRITERIA FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE THESE DAYS.

3. NOUPHAN ATTENDED DINNER FOR OAKLEY THAT EVENING AND GENERAL ATOMSPHERE OF VISIT WAS VERY CORDIAL.
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Message Attributes

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Subject: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY CALLS ON LPDR SECSTATE NOUPHAN SITHPASAY SUMMARY: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EA) OAKLEY P
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, LA, US, (OAKLEY, ROBERT), (NOUPHAN SITHPASAY)
To: STATE
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